SITE NUMBER: WA-II-542

ADDRESS: Kretzer's Market, southeast corner of E. Main and S. Mechanic Streets, Sharpsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Masonic Temple Eureka Lodge, 712/1030, open to public during business hours
BUILDING DATE: 1887

Kretzer's Market is a north-facing, two-story, five-by-twobay, brick, attached, social and commercial structure resting on a stone foundation. It is set directly at the public-right-of-way, on a corner lot on the town square. The facade facing the square is laid in Flemish bond, while the remaining elevations are laid in common bond. The flat roof is articulated by an Italianate cornice composed of brackets and modillions. The first floor has three entrances: the corner storefront, a secondary storefront facing S. Mechanic Street, and a tertiary entrance, also facing S. Mechanic. The storefront designs are characteristic of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture. The corner storefront is cut at an angle into the corner with show windows on the two elevations and a castixon column at the edge of the building to provide support to the story above. All windows are narrow, segmentally arched, doublehung, four-over-four sash. The wood frames have an ornamental motif directly below the arch. There is a one-story addition on the east side of the building, facing the town square.

A cornerstone on the building provides the construction date of 1887. The building was originally built to house a general store on the first floor and a masonic lodge on the second. This is noted on the 1922 Sanborn which numbers the building as 401 E. Main. The map also indicates that the one-story addition housed a cobbler (402) and a barber (403). The storefront facing S. Mechanic is numbered 322. The structure appears to have been part

of a single property that extended from the corner to the alleys in either direction. Today that property has been subdivided. The building continues to serve commercial purposes. The 1877 map of the town indicates that a Masonic Hall stood on this site before the construction of the extant building and that there was a structure at the location of the one-story East Main Street wing.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Social; Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991

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